

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace paragraph after the heading "ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE" with the following:

Fragment pairs of Class A β -lactamase are disclosed that depend for their functional reassembly into the parent protein on the interaction of heterologous polypeptides or other molecules which have been genetically or chemically conjugated to the break-point termini of the fragment pairs. In addition, methods are provided for identifying fragment pairs that will optimally reassemble into a functional parent protein.